Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 INR-10 SWF-02 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 261620Z APR 74 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO USINT ALGIERS INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

IN O SEESTATE WASHING

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF OVERLAND GRAIN SHIPMENTS FROM ALGERIA INTO NIGER

SUMMARY: IN RECENT CABLE, AID/W HAS ASKED NIAMEY TO CONSIDER CONTINGENCY FOOD AIR LIFT PLANNING FOR NIGER WITHOUT DISCUSSING MATTER WITH GON. AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO COSTLY AIRLIFT, EMBASSY REQUESTED PROVIDE INFORMATION USE OF ALGIERS AND OVERLAND SHIPMENTS FROM ALGIERS TO AGADEZ AND ARLIT OF UP TO AS MUCH AS 5,000 TONS DURING A THREE-MONTH PERIOD, IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

- 1. IN LOU CABLE RECEIVED IN NIAMEY APRIL 22, AID/W ASKS NIAMEY TO ANALYZE POSSIBLE AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS FOR NIGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT RAISING QUESTION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
- 2. AS PART OF SUCH ANALYSIS, NIGER COUNTRY TEAM FOOD TASK FORCE RECENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OVERLAND SHIPMENTS FROM ALGIERS TO AGADEZ AND TO

ARLIT IN NORTHERN NIGER SHOULD BE EXPLORED. SUCH SHIPMENTS APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE AS WITNESS RECENT TENTRUCK 200-TON FOOD CONVOYS FROM ALGERIA TO GAO OBSERVED BY RDO/NIAMEY OVER EASTER. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM ROME THAT HEAVY TRUCKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL FROM ALGERIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LAST YEAR GON'S NATIONAL CEREALS OFFICE (OPVN) HAD ONE ALGERIAN QUOTATION OF \$240 PER TON OVERLAND TRUCKING TO AGADEZ.

- 3. WE HAVE IN MIND THAT ADD-ON ALLOCATIONS OF S.F. GRITS FOR NIGER OF UP TO 5,000 TONS MIGHT BE SHIPPED TO THE PORT OF ALGIERS AND THEN TRANSPORTED OVERLAND BY TRUCK CONVOY, AS ALTERNATIVE MORE COSTLY AIRLIFT. ALTERNATIVELY, OTHER DONORS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS POSSIBILITY.
- 4. EMBASSY ALGIERS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING: A) POSSIBILITY OF SHIPPING INTO THE PORT OF ALGIERS; B) LIKELY AVAILABILITY AND COST OF OVERLAND TRUCK TRANSPORT FROM ALGIERS TO AGADEZ AND TO ARLIT; C) TO WHAT EXTENT TRANSPORT IS CONSIDERED FEASIBLE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS OF MAY, JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST.
- 5. SUGGEST THAT INQUIRIES BE KEPT ON LOW KEY. PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO NIAMEY, REPEAT INFO OTHER ADDRESSEES.
- 6. IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT FEASIBLE, GORDON PROUTY, RFFPO, COULD TDY FOR A FEW DAYS IN ALGIERS ON ROUTE FROM PARIS TO NIAMEY NEXT WEEK.

 STONE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, CARGO HANDLING, TRUCKS, FOOD ASSISTANCE, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

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TAGS: EAGR, SWEL, ETRN, AG, NG

To: ALGIERS

Type: TE

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